

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

Pressure-Conditioning Method and Device

Please add the following new paragraph to line 8 of page 1 (directly above “Background of the Invention”):

**CROSS REFERENCE TO PRIOR APPLICATION**

This application claims Paris Convention priority to and benefit of, currently pending, German Patent Application No. 103 04 629.1, filed on February 5, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.